

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     PORT O 03391 281956Z  
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----281958Z 013340 /43

P R 281940Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 155  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 3391

S/S ALSO FOR CARTER LIAISON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TD, PPDC

SUBJECT: ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT--PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE RE-  
COMMENDED

1. THE PRESENT INTERIM PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD  
AND TOBAGO, ELLIS CLARKE, WILL BE FORMALLY ELECTED TO A FIVE-  
YEAR TERM AS PRESIDENT ON DECEMBER 29. HE WILL OFFICIALLY  
TAKE OFFICE AS THE FIRST FULL PRESIDENT OF THE NEW REPUBLIC  
ON JANUARY 28, 1977.

2. PRESIDENT CLARKE WILL BE ELECTED BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE  
ESTABLISHED UNDER THE NEW REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION, COMPRISED  
OF ALL MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT. AS THE ONLY  
CANDIDATE, HIS ELECTION IS ASSURED (SINCE A PRESIDENTIAL  
CANDIDATE MUST BE NOMINATED BY AT LEAST 12 MEMBERS OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ONLY THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL  
MOVEMENT HAD THE REQUISITE NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO MAKE A  
NOMINATION, AND PRESIDENT CLARKE WAS ITS CANDIDATE.)  
THE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY, THE UNITED LABOR FRONT, HAS  
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ALSO GONE ON RECORD AS BEING UNOPPOSED TO CLARKE'S ELECTION.

3. NO CEREMONIES HAVE YET BEEN PLANNED FOR THE INAUGURATION  
OF PRESIDENT CLARKE, AND WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT THE  
TRANSITION FROM INTERIM TO CONSTITUTIONALLY-ELECTED  
PRESIDENT WILL BE HANDLED IN A LOW-KEY MANNER.

4. HOWEVER, WE RECOMMEND THAT AN APPROPRIATE CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE, TAKING NOTE OF PRESIDENT CLARKE'S LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES AS HIS COUNTRY'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, BE SENT AFTER THE DECEMBER 29 ELECTION. SINCE THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION IN THE UNITED STATES WILL PRECEDE PRESIDENT CLARKE'S INAUGURATION, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE MESSAGE TO COME FROM PRESIDENT CARTER AT THAT TIME AS A MEANS OF ESTABLISHING A FIRST CONTACT WITH THIS IMPORTANT CARIBBEAN COUNTRY BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.  
RICH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERIM GOVERNMENT, INAUGURATION, PRESIDENT ELECT, CEREMONIAL MESSAGES, AMBASSADORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PORTO03391  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760474-0292  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 09 JUN 2004  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, PPDC, TD, US, (CLARKE, ELLIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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